

Phase 1 Consultation Summary



Ontario/Teme-Augama
Anishnabai Negotiations

May, 1993

Local involvement essential to successful negotiations

Dear reader:

More than one thousand people took part directly in the first phase of public consultation on these negotiations. Of these, many individuals represented thousands more from interest groups in the area and across the province.

Because of this participation, the negotiators heard a broad range of opinion, comments and concerns. We heard you very clearly, and we have used your continuing participation to shape the details of our position at the negotiations table.

We understand the frustration you expressed with the land cautions and the length of time it takes to conclude a Treaty among neighbours. As you will see in this Summary

report, we heard your concerns about the rights of non-Aboriginal land-owners; about future access to the rich resources of the area; and about the status of leases, permits and licences.

These concerns have led us to more intensive homework in identifying the various uses of the land.

We also heard support for fairness and generosity in our negotiations with the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, along with a strongly expressed desire for sound environmental management. Negotiators from both parties intend to include such principles in the final Treaty.

We have stated from the beginning that our reasons for negotiating are two-fold: to settle past grievances, and to build a new relationship for the future. As Chief Negotiator, I remain as committed to those goals now, as my colleagues were at the start.

Please accept this Summary with my thanks. My colleagues and I appreciate the heart felt concerns you have expressed throughout phase one of our public consultation program.

Sincerely,
Grant Wedge,
Ontario's Chief Negotiator

Informed comment is necessary

You asked for more and better information. You asked for more information, and we listened. During Phase One, there were many questions we could not answer, and there were many criticisms about inadequate information.

There was some confusion about the reasons for Ontario's decision to negotiate, in view of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision of 1991, regarding the Teme-Augama Anishnabai land claim. Because of this confusion, many people questioned our reasons for negotiating at all.

Although the scope of the public consultation was to discuss the interests, concerns, and impacts of a Treaty settlement, some people also wanted to air their concerns about the laws respecting Aboriginal rights, the federal Indian Act, and the Statement of Political Relationship.

As a result of these comments, Ontario has prepared Information Backgrounders, available at the addresses which appear on Page 4. In addition, the Teme-Augama Anishnabai have prepared Information Backgrounders. These will be available during Phase Two.

Many people wanted to hear Ontario's positions on shared and sole stewardship, or our response to the Teme-Augama Anishnabai "Vision of Co-Existence". There were demands for better representation at the negotiating table, or for intervenor funding for interest groups.

As the result of several months of negotiations, Ontario is now in a position to offer you more information, and both parties will ask you for your advice on models for shared and sole stewardship during Phase Two.

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The Summary report

The report summarizes the results of public consultation to date. In addition to the formal consultation in September, 1992, Ontario has continued to meet with individuals and groups while negotiations proceed. The report includes:

- a listing of the ways we have made information available
- a listing of opportunities for you to give us feedback
- a summary of the comments we heard from you
- a few suggestions for settlement
- details about the full record of consultation

Background: Phase One

Three years ago, the governments of Ontario and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai agreed, in a Memorandum of Understanding, to work toward a Treaty of Co-Existence in the Temagami area. The goals of this agreement were social harmony and economic renewal for the area.

On August 17, 1992 the two governments announced the beginning of substantive negotiations, beginning with a full month of public consultation: a series of seven public meetings designed to provide information about the negotiations, gather comments, and identify concerns and interests.

The formal consultation was administered by the Comprehensive Planning Council (CPC), a group of citizens from the area affected by negotiations. The CPC is responsible for developing land use and resource management plans for an area of approximately 2,200 square miles.

Basis for negotiating

On August 17, 1992, Bud Wildman, Minister Responsible for Native Affairs, outlined elements of Ontario's approach to negotiations. These elements include a proposal to:

- negotiate Teme-Augama Anishnabai sole lands
- negotiate shared stewardship lands
- outline areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction

It was proposed that the Teme-Augama Anishnabai would have an increased role to play in land use and resource management on Ontario sole lands, through advisory or bilateral arrangements.

Ontario announced its intention that any governing body for shared stewardship lands would be representative not only of Ontario and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, but also of local residents and interests. A shared

stewardship body would be responsible for land use and resource management.

Ontario also took the position that compensation was owed by the Crown to the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, for obligations that were never fulfilled. One purpose of the negotiations was to determine the amount of compensation owed by Ontario in land and money, as well as the possible size and location of Teme-Augama Anishnabai lands.



Information Exchange

In order to ensure Ontarians are fairly represented in the negotiations, consultation is very important. Since September, 1992, this has taken shape in different ways. The formal public meetings and the analysis of comments were administered by the Comprehensive Planning Council.

Public meetings	Held in Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Temagami, New Liskeard, Latchford, Elk Lake and Matachewan.
Personal contact	Members of the negotiating team have spoken by phone, mail, and face-to-face with interest groups and individuals, at meetings or at the Office of the Chief Negotiator in Temagami.
Comment sheets	Many people took the time to fill out comment sheets and mail them to us.
Bulletin	Ontario and the CPC issued a Negotiations Bulletin with details of Ontario's position and background information about the claim and the process.
News/advertising	Periodic news releases, and advertising for the public meetings were placed in media throughout the region.
Presentations	Negotiators for both Ontario and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai have continued to make presentations to groups throughout the province.

What Ontario heard

Some people believed that land cautions:

- are not the only cause of economic stagnation
- have protected some areas from over-development
- should be lifted immediately
- affect the economy, tourism, forestry, mining etc.
- should come off before negotiating anything
- benefit tourism

Some private property owners were concerned:

- about guarantees, rights, access etc.
- about use of adjacent lands, whether sole or shared
- about control, administration of taxation, property laws

Some commercial and recreational users of the area were concerned:

- about future of leases, licences of occupation, land use permits, other licences and permits
- about loss of free recreational use of the area
- about loss of revenue to government and to local area if tourism and commercial logging not permitted

There was concern about third-party compensation:

- for decrease in real estate values
- for loss of access for tourist and business operators

Some people expressed environmental concerns:

- about overall water quality, fish and game populations, forestry practices
- about maintaining the skyline reserve around Lake Temagami
- that Teme-Augama Anishnabai management will have negative environmental results
- that Teme-Augama Anishnabai management will be better than Ontario's

There were some concerns that federal involvement:

- is necessary for negotiations to be completed
- is not certain, but urgently required
- might take too long
- might affect final product

Some people felt that Provincial Parks:

- should not be in negotiations, should be protected
- should be multiple use rather than single use

Public suggestions

In the course of the public meetings and afterward, Ontario's negotiators heard many suggestions. The following list is a sample:

- a joint panel of natives and non-natives, for entire Northeastern region of Ontario, for land and resource management
- sole stewardship over entire area (n'Daki Menan)
- shared stewardship over entire area (n'Daki Menan)
- support amalgamating the Wendaban Stewardship Authority (WSA) with ministries, local governments, and local interests; thus allowing Teme-Augama Anishnabai long-term involvement
- offer leaseholders opportunity to purchase property
- offer Teme-Augama Anishnabai 65 square miles, plus compensation of loss of past use, but no shared stewardship
- "Township of the Islands" proposal for a Lake Temagami municipality
- sole stewardship of WSA, plus Lake Temagami, including one-mile zone around lake; shared stewardship of Lady-Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park
- pay past debts in money, not Crown land

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Public record of consultation available

A public record of all comments, written and verbal, is available at the Comprehensive Planning Council office, Temagami. This record, a copy of all original comments, and tapes of the public meetings will be available at a series of public Information Centres, beginning in June.

Questions?

Grant Wedge
Chief Negotiator
Toronto (416) 326-4764

Cathy Dwyer-Smith
Assistant Negotiator
Temagami (705) 569-2637

Mary Gordon
Consultation co-ordinator
Temagami (705) 569-2637

Scott Lee
Project officer
Temagami (705) 569-2637

Mailing address:

Office of the Chief Negotiator
P.O. Box 422
Temagami, Ontario
POH 2H0
(705) 569-2637
Fax (705) 569-3545

Comprehensive Planning Council
Paul King-Fisher
Resource Co-ordinator
P.O. Box 189
Temagami, Ontario
POH 2H0
(705) 569-2744
Fax (705) 569-3545



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